



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

nothing of this being its original force. We have, therefore, no reason whatever to associate *gelingen* and *verlangen*. We have simply to recognize that, as in many other cases,² two sets of derivative verbs have been formed from the adjective *lang*:—

(1) First weak conjugation:

OHG. *lengen* 'make long,' 'delay,' OE. *lengan* 'extend,' 'delay.'

(2) Second or third weak conjugation:

OHG. *langēn* 'become or seem long,' 'stretch,' 'reach,' 'long (for),' OS. *langōn* 'long (for),' OE. *langian* 'become long,' 'long (for).'

GEORGE HEMPL.

University of Michigan.

THE ISLAND OF AVALON.

ONE of the most attractive among the legends that group around King Arthur tells how that monarch, wounded in the last great fight with Modred, was carried off to Avalon to be healed of his wounds. Some day he will return, the Britons say, to ransom his people and redeem his land. The first appearance of this tradition in literature seems to be in Wace's *Brut*:

En Avalon se fist porter
Por ses plaies médiciner.
Encor i est, Breton l'atandent,
Si com il dient et entandent;
De la vandra, encor puet vivre. 13683-13687.

.
Livra son raine, si li dist
Qu'il fust rois tant qu'il revenist. 13703-13704.

The first two lines quoted here are translated from Geoffrey of Monmouth. Those that follow are additions made by Wace himself, and have always been adduced to support the opinion that there was a popular belief among Celts that Arthur was biding his time in a place (more exactly in an island) called Avalon. Other passages confirming this theory have been cited from Chrétien's *Érec* (line 1955) and Marie de France's *Lanval* (lines 659-662).

In the October number of the *Romania* for 1898 (pages 552-564) Ferdinand Lot arrives at conclusions entirely different from these, and

² Cf. *hyggan* 'remember,' *hogian* 'think about'; *mengan* 'mix,' *mangian* 'trade'; *wecgan* 'wake up,' *wacian* 'be awake'; *scyttan* 'remove or discharge (a debt),' *scotian* 'move rapidly,' 'shoot'; *wendan* 'turn,' *wandian* 'turn aside,' 'be ashamed,' 'neglect'; *wegan* 'move,' 'stir,' *wagian* 'move,' 'wag'; etc., etc.

would have the idea of a region called Avalon come down through literary channels only. He does, however, admit the possibility of oral popular sources (*op. cit.*, page 555 end). The chain of reasoning by which he establishes his position is this. There was a mysterious island in the western seas which was ruled in Celtic mythology by the god Avaloc. In process of time and through linguistic confusion this name became Avalon or Avallon, yet was still applied to a person and not a region. So that when Geoffrey of Monmouth writes "in insulam Avallonis" in his *Historia*, he is speaking of Avalon's island and not the island Avalon. But Wace translating this phrase supposes it is a place called Avalon. Chrétien and Marie perpetuated his error, and thus it was continued down into modern literature. That Wace knew about such a region by any other way than through Geoffrey is not admitted.

It was hardly possible for the editors of the *Romania* to allow this assumption of M. Lot to go unchallenged, and we are not surprised, therefore, to find a protest lodged against it by Gaston Paris in a note subjoined to M. Lot's article (*op. cit.*, page 573). In that note M. Paris advances two reasons against M. Lot's position. First, that Wace does not speak of Avalon as an "island," whereas Chrétien and Marie do, and, therefore, they cannot have followed him. Second, that the context in the *Brut*—quoted but disregarded by M. Lot (see lines 13685-13687 above)—as well as the context in *Érec* and *Lanval*, points to popular beliefs in the island Avalon, which were known to the authors of those poems.

The first argument of M. Paris, unfortunately, is due to an inadvertence. It is true that in the passage quoted Wace does not say that Avalon is an island. But earlier in the poem (line 9516) in speaking of Excalibur he adds "En l'île d'Avalon fu faite," a translation of Geoffrey's "in insula Avallonis fabricato." So that subsequent writers might very well have borrowed from Wace their topography of Avalon. But the other argument, the assertion that the context in the *Brut* implies that Arthur's sojourn in Avalon was a common tradition among the Celts, and that the French knew of Avalon as a place and not as the abode of a person named Avalon can hardly

be overcome. The lines of Chrétien and Marie point, indeed, to this same conclusion.

There is another witness in this case who has not been hitherto cited, but who may well be. It is the author of the epic poem *le Couronnement de Louis* (edited for the *Société des anciens textes français* in 1888 by Ernest Langlois). This author, whose name is unknown, is supposed to have come from the Ile-de-France, and rather from the east of that province than from the west (see edition, page clxix-clxx); and to have written about the middle of the twelfth century (see *Romania*, vol. xxv, page 379). In other words, he was not a Norman, nor was his birthplace near the borders of Brittany, while as a poet he was a contemporary of Wace, who finished his *Brut* in 1155, as is stated in the closing lines of that poem. So that the author of *le Couronnement* could hardly have profited by the *Brut* in writing his epic, and may, therefore, stand as an independent authority on the point at issue regarding Avalon. Now he uses the name twice in the same episode, and both times as a locality. The hero of the poem, William of Orange, is ordering his nephew, Alelme, to summon Acelin to render homage to Louis. If he does not

Qu'ainz l'avesprer en sera si hontos

N'i voldreit estre por tot l'or d'Avalon. 1795-1796.

The summons is given. Acelin answers with a proposition which aims at detaching William from the king. But Alelme replies:

Il nel feraiz por tot l'or d'Avalon. 1827.

It is clear that the poet means a region—whether island or not—and also that his readers (or hearers) knew that region to be endowed with unusual gifts. Furthermore, it is evident that the lines in the *Brut* where Avalon is mentioned could not have been the source of this specific characteristic of gold, even if *le Couronnement de Louis* is the later of the two poems in date.*

F. M. WARREN.

Adelbert College.

* It may be well to call attention to the fact that Wace is credited in his *Brut* with a longer poem than he really wrote. The only edition published, the one by Leroux de Lincy, gives the number of lines as fifteen thousand three hundred. But there are several errors in the enumeration, which are continued, and affect the sum-total. Line 1120 is printed 1130, line 1770 reads 1780, line 9970 is displaced by 9980, and line 11700 by 11800. So that the actual length of the *Brut* as represented in this edition is to be reached by deducting one hundred and thirty lines from the printed fifteen thousand three hundred.

THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE.

ENGLAND, France, Germany, Italy, The United States, and Canada, and to some extent also Spain and Portugal, are now connected by a system of International Correspondence, beginning among students of the different countries, and gradually extending to mature men and women in the various walks and occupations of life. The system as now inaugurated was first practically introduced, about three years since, by Professor T. Mieille, then of the College of Draguignan, France, now of the Lycée de Tarbes, Hautes Pyrenées. Being an experienced Professor of English in his own country, and having a wide acquaintance in England, where he had spent some years, he began his work by interesting in it the *Review of Reviews* in London, and the *Revue Universitaire* in Paris. This correspondence was at first undertaken by the students of the schools and colleges of these two countries, but later through the co-operation of the *Manuel Générale de l'Instruction Primaire*, published by Hachette et Cie, there was established, between teachers and Professors, what was called the Correspondance Pédagogique Internationale. The following extract from a letter received from Prof. Mieille, the inventor of this system, cannot fail to be of interest at this point:—

"Since you are collecting statistics, I will tell you that for the French-English correspondence alone the official figure is over three thousand on each side. Moreover, allow about one thousand for Germany and Italy. These two latter countries will soon greatly increase their correspondence with France, since several journals have earnestly espoused the cause. I add, as information useful for your report, that the figures above given are exclusively French. I know from a reliable source that already a certain number of Italians, English, and Germans are engaged in active correspondence among themselves. There is, besides, the international correspondence for adults, in which many are engaged in the countries above mentioned. So that it is within, rather than beyond, the bounds of truth to say that the whole number of correspondents on the various lists is now about ten thousand. Is not that splendid? And the results, by common consent, are excellent. See upon this subject the *Review of Reviews* of London. They write me from Germany the most satisfactory letters. In France the system meets universal approval, and it is now officially recommended in the classes."